



HEROES OF THE REVOLUTION.

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**WITH FINE PORTRAITS.**  
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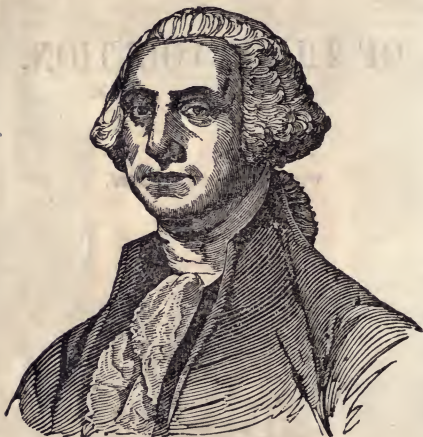
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Heroes of the Revolution.

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

The founder of American Independence, and first President of the United States, was born in 1732, in the county of Fairfax, in Virginia. He was descended from an English family, which emigrated from Cheshire, about 1630; and his father, in the place of his nativity, was possessed of great landed property. He received his education from a private tutor; and was particularly instructed in mathematics and engineering.

His abilities were first employed by Governor Dinwiddie, in 1753, in making remonstrances to the French commander on the Ohio, for the infraction of the treaty between the two nations; and he afterwards negotiated with the Indians on the back settlements, for which he received the thanks of the British government.

In the expedition of Braddock he served as aid-de-camp; and, on the fall of that brave but rash commander, he displayed

great talent in conducting the retreat, and saving the army from a dangerous position.

In 1758, he was sent on an expedition against fort Du Quesne, the lurking place and strong hold of the hostile Indians, who were constantly harrassing and murdering the inhabitants on the frontier; but on reaching the post it was found deserted. A treaty of peace was soon after formed with the Indians. The name of the fort was changed to fort Pitt, and it was garisoned with two hundred soldiers, and become a source of as much advantage to the English settlements, as it had before been of damage.

The great object of his wishes having been thus happily accomplished, Washington resigned his commission, and thus ended his career as a provincial officer. Soon after this resignation, he married Mrs. Martha Custis, a young and beautiful lady, of great accomplishments, and an amiable character. Retiring to the estate at Mount Vernon, which he had acquired a few years before by the death of his elder brother, he devoted himself assiduously to the business of agriculture. He became one of the greatest landholders in North America. His Mount Vernon estate alone consisted of nine thousand acres, and his domestic and farming establishments were composed of nearly a thousand persons.



MRS. WASHINGTON.

He was elected a representative to the first Congress, which met at Philadelphia, in 1774, and was the active member of all the committees on military affairs. When the commencement of hostilities made it necessary to appoint a commander-in-chief of the American forces, George Washington was unanimously elected to the office.

The record of his services is the history of the whole war. He joined the army at Cambridge in July, 1775. On the evacuation of Boston, in March 1776, he proceeded to New York. The battle of Long Island was fought on the 27th of August, and the battle of White Plains on the 28th of October. On the 25th of December, he crossed the Delaware, and soon gained the victories at Trenton and Princeton. The battle of Brandywine was fought on September 11th, 1777; of Germantown, October 4th; of Monmouth, February 27th 1778. In 1779 and 1780, he continued in the vicinity of New York, and closed the important military operations of the war by the capture of Cornwallis, at Yorktown, in 1781.

On the disbanding of the army, Washington proceeded to Annapolis, then the seat of Congress, to resign his commission. On his way thither, he delivered to the comptroller of accounts, at Philadelphia, an account of his receipts and expenditures of public money. The whole amount that had passed through his hands, was only £14,479 18s. 9d. sterling. Nothing was charged or retained for his own services. The resignation of his command was made in a public audience. Congress received him as the guardian of his Country and her liberties.

He appeared there under the most affecting circumstances. The battles of a glorious war had been fought since he first appeared before them to accept, with becoming modesty, the command of their armies. Now the eyes of a whole nation were upon him, and the voices of a liberated people proclaimed him their preserver.

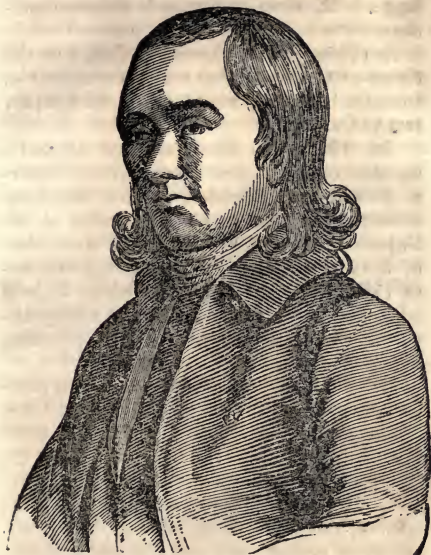
His high character and services naturally entitled him to the highest gifts his country could bestow; and, on the organization of the government, he was called upon to be the first president of the states he had preserved and established. It was a period of great difficulty and danger. The unsubdued spirit of liberty had been roused and kindled by the revolution of France, and many of his fellow citizens were eager that the freedom and equality which they themselves enjoyed should be extended to the subjects of the French monarch. Washington anticipated the plans of the factious, and by prudence and firmness subdued insurrection, and silenced discontent, till the parties which the intrigues of Genet, the French envoy, had roused to rebellion, were convinced of the wildness of their measures, and of the wisdom of their governor.

The president completed, in 1796, the business of his office, by signing a commercial

treaty with Great Britian, and then voluntarily resigned his power at a moment when all hands and all hearts were united again to confer upon him the sovereignty of the country. Restored to the peaceful retirement of Mount Vernon, he devoted himself to the pursuits of agriculture; and though he accepted the command of the army in 1798, it was merely to unite the affections of his fellow citizens to the general good, and was one more sacrifice to his high sense of duty. He died, after a short illness, on the 14th of December, 1799.

ROGER SHERMAN.

ROGER SHERMAN was born at Newton, Massachusetts on the 19th of April, 1721. He was early apprenticed to a shoemaker, and followed the business of one for some time after he was twenty-two years of age. The father of Roger Sherman died in 1741, leaving his family which was quite numerous, dependant upon his son for support. He entered upon the task with great cheerfulness. Towards his mother, whose life was protracted to a great age, he always manifested the tenderest affection, and assisted two of his younger brothers to qualify themselves for clergymen.



ROGER SHERMAN.

In 1749, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Hartwell of Stoughton, in Massachusetts. After her decease, in 1760, he married Miss Rebecca Prescott, of Danvers, in the same

State. By these wives he had fifteen children.

In 1759, he was appointed Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the county of Litchfield, Conn., which office he held for two years.

In 1766, Mr. Sherman was elected a member of the Upper House, in the General Assembly of Connecticut, and during the same year he was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court. He continued a member of the Upper House for nineteen years, until 1785, when, the two offices which he held being considered incompatible, he relinquished his seat at the council-board, preferring his station as a Judge.

Mr. Sherman was a delegate to the celebrated Congress of 1774, and continued uninterruptedly a member of that body, until his death in 1793. His services during his congressional career were many and important. He was employed on numerous committees, and was indefatigable in the investigation of complicated and difficult subjects.

Under the new Constitution, Mr. Sherman was elected a representative to Congress from the State of Connecticut. At the expiration of two years, a vacancy occurring in the Senate, he was elevated to a seat in that body. In this office he died on the 23d of July,

1793, in the seventy-third year of his age.

A predominant trait in the character of Roger Sherman was his practical wisdom. Although inferior to many in rapidity of genius, he was surpassed by none in clearness of apprehension, energy of mind, or honesty of action. A remark of Jefferson bears testimony to the strength and soundness of his intellect. "That is Sherman," said he to a friend, to whom he was pointing out the most remarkable men of Congress, "a man who never said a foolish thing in his life." Not less honorable to the integrity of his character, is the remark of Fisher Ames, who was wont to say: "If I am absent during the discussion of a subject, and consequently know not on which side to vote, I always look at Roger Sherman, for I am sure IF I VOTE WITH HIM I SHALL VOTE RIGHT."

JOHN HANCOCK.

John Hancock, of Boston, may justly be ranked high among the patriots of the revolution. There were a few, indeed, in that patriotic band, who were older, and who were the leaders in the controversy with the British ministry, which began twelve years before the commencement of hostilities in

1775. But he early took such a decided stand, in opposition to the arbitrary measures of the British government, that he had the entire confidence of the whigs of that period ; and was elected to the general court, when only thirty-three years of age. Samuel Adams and James Bowdoin, were much older than Hancock : James Otis, Jr. was his senior by ten years, and John Adams was his cotemporary at the university.

Mr. Hancock was an opulent merchant, and the heir of an uncle who left a large estate. He delivered the public oration, March 5th, 1774, the anniversary of the massacre, in Boston, by the British troops, which gave great offence to the tories ; as he denounced standing armies, and other arbitrary measures of the administration. Hutchinson and Gage rejected him, when elected into the council. He was one of the five delegates from Massachusetts, to a continental Congress in 1774 ; and the next year was chosen President of that august body. In 1780, he was elected Governor of Massachusetts, and was chosen also, for the four following years : when Mr. Bowdoin was elected. Again, in 1787, he was in the chair, and continued till his death in 1793.

Governor Hancock had a fine form, and was of very courteous and elegant manners.



JOHN HANCOCK.

He was a popular character ; and was eminent for his hospitality and charities. The ministers of religion found in him a real friend, and he honored the religious institutions of the country. But he had some enemies who charged him with being capricious and destitute of firmness in critical situations. It would be strange, indeed, if

he had not some faults. But he had many virtues to render his memory honorable and precious ; and one of his last cotemporaries, who was engaged with him in the contest, said that no man made greater sacrifices in the cause of liberty than JOHN HANCOCK. On public occasions and in his official station Governor Hancock appeared with much dignity ; but in the social circle was pleasant and familiar in his manners. He thought little of money, except as the means of utility to the community, and of comfort to individuals. His salary as Governor was not a full support to him ; and he expended much of his own estate while in public life. He owned many houses and stores in Boston, when the British troops were there in 1775-6. And when he was asked if he had any objection to firing the town by the American army at Cambridge, in order to drive away the British, he said he had not : " that his property was a trifle compared to the defence of the country against the enemy ; and that he should cheerfully acquiesce in any measures of attack recommended by General Washington the commander of the American troops."



GEN. ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Major General Israel Putnam, one of the distinguished officers in the American Army, in the war of the revolution was born at Danvers in Massachusetts, 1718. His education was such as was then received in the common public schools through the province, which was indeed, little more than the mere elements of knowledge. He early gave indications of a strong and vigorous intellect; and he was fond of bold enterprise and of athletic exercises.—

He married at the age of twenty-one, and removed into the colony of Connecticut, where he purchased a farm, and cultivated the soil in person. There was then much wild uncultivated land in the vicinity; and the flocks of the farmers where he settled, were frequently attacked and destroyed by wolves. The hiding place of one of these ferocious beasts was discovered by Putnam. It was a deep cavern in a rock or ledge. He had the hardihood to enter it with a torch in one hand and a musket in the other. Nothing could dissuade him from the desperate enterprize. It was an instance of resolute courage, seldom surpassed or equalled. The animal was found within, ready to give battle, or to defend himself. At the moment it prepared to spring on the daring intruder, Putnam fired and destroyed his dangerous enemy.

Putnam distinguished himself in the war against the French and Indians, in 1755, and afterwards. He was first appointed to command a company of provincials, which was sometime stationed at Crown Point, and vicinity. Afterwards in 1757, he served as a partisan officer, having the commission of Major, with great fidelity and activity. His corps and the rangers, under Major Rodgers, were of great use in the British and American army at that period. In 1758, when returning from an expedition on which he had been sent by the British General at Fort Edward, near lake George, he fell into an Indian ambuscade, and was taken prisoner. The Indians would have burnt

him to death, but for the humane interposition of a French officer. He was carried to Montreal as a prisoner ; but soon after was exchanged, and returned home. But he was not content to be idle. He was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel and assisted at the siege of Montreal by the British, in 1760. On that occasion his services were very conspicuous. In 1762, when war was declared between England and Spain, he joined the British expedition against Havana. After the peace of 1763, the Indians were troublesome on the western frontiers, and he accompanied Colonel Bradstreet to quell them ; when a treaty was made with them on terms favorable to the welfare of the inhabitants.

Colonel Putnam again engaged in the business of a farmer ; but held several offices in the town where he lived, and was a representative to the general assembly of the colony. In 1770, he went with others, who had been officers in the war of 1758—60, and to whom the British had promised grants of land near the Mississippi, to that part of the country, but did not long remain.

When hostilities were commenced by the British, April, 1775, Colonel Putnam left his farm and family, and hastened to the scene of danger. He soon returned to Connecticut and raised a regiment of men under the authority of that colony, and marched to Cambridge.—Thereupon he was appointed a Major-General by the same authority ; and in June, the continental Congress gave him a commission for the

same rank, in the American army, then just organized. General Washington was appointed commander-in-chief a few days before. Lee and Ward were also commissioned as Major-Generals at the same time.

General Putnam took a very active part in the memorable battle of the 17th of June, on Bunker Hill. He had the chief direction and command on that occasion. Colonel Prescott commanded in the Fort; but General Putnam was engaged in bringing up, rallying and directing the men in that affair. There was, indeed, no proper organization or system prepared for the occasion. General Washington had not then arrived at Cambridge. The expedition was hastily got up, and all suitable military arrangements had not been made. But Putnam was the highest officer there, and though part of the time with the Connecticut troops, directing and urging them on, when the British Phalanx approached, he rode to all other places where the Americans were stationed, and gave advice and orders, proper only for one who had a right to direct and command. His whole conduct on that memorable day, gave proof of courage, judgment and foresight. He remained in military service, and enjoyed the entire confidence of the commander in chief. When it was proposed, in the winter of 1775—6, to make an attack on the British troops in Boston, Washington selected Putnam to command, though there were two other general officers in the detachment. Unforeseen events induced General Washington not to make the attack.

During the war, General Putnam rendered most important services, on several trying occasions; and was held in high estimation both for courage and patriotism. General Washington often placed him in very responsible stations; nor was he ever disappointed in his expectations of the activity and resolution of our hero. In 1779, when four years of the war had passed, and most of the hard fighting was over, except in the capture of Cornwallis, and the partisan warfare at the south, General Putnam was attacked by a paralytic affection at the age of sixty-three, which rendered him incapable of active service. He survived several years, however, and enjoyed most of the ordinary comforts of life. He was highly esteemed by his acquaintance and neighbors; and his memory is held in great respect by his countrymen, as one of the distinguished patriots and heroes, to whom they are indebted for independence.

One of the most remarkable feats of this resolute man, for which it will be difficult to find a parallel, was riding down the precipice of a ledge, whose declivity was so great, that steps had been made to enable foot passengers to ascend it. On a view of the precipice, one is ready to say, it would be impossible to ride down in safety. The distance is between sixty and seventy feet. The enemy came upon him unexpectedly while he was visiting his out-post, at Horse-neck. The few men he then had with him, saved themselves by retiring into a thick swamp, where they could not be pursued by the

British dragoons. Nor had any one of them the courage, or rashness, to pursue Putnam down the precipice which he had descended at the most imminent danger.

General Putnam was as prompt and decisive in writing as in action, which required great personal efforts. A tory officer in the British army fell into his hands when he commanded at Peekskill. The British General demanded the officer to be delivered up; and threatened vengeance, if he should be executed. General Putnam's answer to this demand was as follows, viz. 'Nathan Palmer, a Lieutenant in your King's service, was taken in my camp as a *spy*; he was tried as a *spy*; he was condemned as a *spy*; and you may be assured he will be hanged as a *spy*.

P. S. Afternoon. He is hanged !'

KOSCIUSKO.

Thaddeus Kosciusko was born on the 12th of February, 1746, at the Chateau of Sienniewicze. Of a noble, though not very illustrious family, he was early initiated in the science of war, at the military School of Warsaw. In his youth, his affections were engaged to the daughter of the Marshal of Lithuania; but, crossed in his love, he saw her married to another, Prince Lubomirski. He then went to France, and on his return applied to Stanislas for a military appointment; but was refused, because he was a favorite of Adam Czartoryski, whom Sta-



nistas hated. Kosciusko sought to dispel his disappointment in the labors of a martial life. The American colonies were, at that time, throwing off the yoke of their unnatural mother country : their cause was that of justice and liberty, and one dear to the heart of a young, proud-spirited Pole. He was cordially welcomed in the New World and served in the ranks of Gates and Washington ;—and was appointed aid-de-camp to the latter. When the glorious struggle of “ the Rebels ” was crowned with

success, he returned to his own native land, where he found an equally glorious field for his exertions. He held the rank of Major-General under Joseph Poniatowski, in the campaign of 1792, to which office he had been raised by the diet, and gave ample earnest of what he might have accomplished, had not his ardor been checked by the King's irresolution.

When the sword of insurrection was drawn, at Cracow, in 1794, the garrison and all the troops proclaimed him Generalissimo; they took an oath of allegiance to him, and by deed appointed him Dictator, in imitation of the Roman custom, on emergent occasions. His power was absolute. He had the command of all the armies, and the regulation of all affairs; political and civil.

The revolt was unsuccessful. Kosciusko was wounded and taken prisoner by the Russians; and soon after the struggle ceased, and the soldiers and generals of the revolution were either killed or dispersed—immured in the prisons of Petersburg, or sent to Siberia.

The death of Catharine, on the 17th of November, 1796, delivered the Poles from a detestable tyrant. Her successor, the Emperor Paul, commenced a new era in Russian history, that of clemency. His behavior to Kosciusko was almost heroic. He visited him in prison, embraced him warmly, and told him he was free. Paul also proposed to present him with a high military post: this was declined. He then gave him 1500 serfs and 12,000 roubles, as a testimony of regard. But Kosciusko, determin-

ed to go to America, returned these presents. He then proceeded, by way of England, to the New World, when, having spent some time with his old comrades in arms, he went to Paris and settled near Fontainebleau.

It was in 1798 that he touched at England, on his passage to America. Dr. Warner, who saw him at the house of the consul at Bristol, says, 'I never contemplated a more interesting human figure than Kosciusko, stretched on his couch. His wounds were still unhealed, and he was unable to sit upright. He appeared to be a small man, spare and delicate. A black silk bandage crossed his fair and high, but somewhat wrinkled forehead. Beneath it his dark eagle eye sent forth a flame of light, that indicated the steady flame of patriotism which still burned within his soul, unquenched by disaster and wounds, weakness, poverty, and exile. Contrasted with its brightness was the paleness of his countenance, and the wan cast of every feature. He spoke tolerable English, though in a low and feeble tone; but his conversation, replete with fine sense, lively remark, and sagacious answers, evinced a noble understanding and a cultivated mind. On rising to depart, I offered him my hand: he took it. My eyes filled with tears; and he gave it a warm grasp. I muttered something about "brighter prospects and happier days!" He faintly smiled, and said, "Ah! sir, he who devotes himself for his country must not look for his reward on this side of the grave."'

When, in 1806, Napoleon felt what powerful

allies the Poles, fighting for liberty, would be against Russia and Prussia, he used many arts to engage them in his cause. There was one man then living near Fontainebleau, whose name alone would have raised the whole population of Poland—Kosciusko. Bonaparte made him the most pressing invitations to share in the campaign, and urged him, again and again, to address his fellow-countrymen, and call upon the Polish nation to embrace the present opportunity of regaining their liberty. But Kosciusko was not dazzled by the splendor of Napoleon's career; and he divined that a military despot might be as treacherous as hereditary tyrants. He seemed too, to share in a degree, the feelings of those who, being set free and mildly treated by Paul, imagined it would be an act of ingratitude to appear in arms against him. He never ceased however, to hold the welfare of his native land most dear to his heart. On the 9th of April, 1814, after the allies had entered Paris, he sent a letter to Alexander, in behalf of the Poles. The Emperor returned an autograph answer, promising that his wishes should be accomplished. He again wrote to Alexander on the 10th of June, 1815, at Vienna, calling upon him to fulfil the promises, he had made to him. To this no answer was given, and Kosciusko, certain that his apprehensions were well founded, on the 13th of June announced his intention to retire to Switzerland. This design he soon put into execution, and went to reside at Soleure, where he ended his illustrious life, on the 16th of October, 1817.

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